HYBRIDS IN RUBUS SUBGENUS EUBATUS IN NEW ENGLAND[1, 2]

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The background for this current study will be found in the three papers we have published on New England blackberries during the past nine years, beginning in 1962[3, 4, 5]. Aside from the cited paper on hybrids of *Rubus hispidus* and *R. setosus*, we have thus far made no attempt to characterize hybrids in the group. In our survey of New England blackberries in 1966 we thought it would have unduly complicated our study to have done so. However, at that time we were fully aware of the significance of hybridization as we indicated in the long list of rejected binomials on pp. 510-512 where, in each instance when we suspected that a name had been given to a hybrid, we also stated what we supposed the parentage to be.

The present paper then is an attempt to round out our studies on *Rubus* in New England. We have accumulated a great deal of data in the course of field and laboratory work, much of it serving to support our contention and that of some others before us that it is chiefly the high incidence of interspecific hybridization that makes classification so difficult in blackberries. Therefore, our study of New

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[3]Hodgdon, A. R. & F. L. Steele. 1962. Glandularity in *Rubus allegheniensis* Porter. Rhodora *64:* 161-168.

[4]Steele, F. L. & A. R. Hodgdon. 1963. Hybridization of *Rubus hispidus* and *R. setosus*. Rhodora *65:* 262-270.

[5]Hodgdon, A. R. & F. L. Steele. 1966. *Rubus* subgenus Eubatus in New England. Rhodora *68:* 474-513.